

# ZOLAN TARINA

Teksti & kuvat: Arianna Casiraghi

**My dear curly-haired friends,**

**I am Zola (Bazolo Gianna Nannini), the Finnish Lagotto that moved to Italy. I wrote an article here not so long ago... do you remember me? I have been through some great adventures lately and my best friend Stella (Mandaraban Boogie Woogie) suggested that I should share my memories with you. And so here I am!**



Before going into any detail I need to start with a small introduction about my humans: simply put, they are mad! Earlier in the year they agreed to quit their jobs to pursue a project they have been planning for a long time. Specifically, they decided to cycle over 6000 km in a route that draws the shape of a huge bicycle across Europe, hoping to encourage more people to ditch their cars in favour of bicycles and fight climate breakdown. They really believe that bicycles will save the world!

When they asked me if I wanted to join them, I stated clearly my conditions: a roomy 3-person tent, my own sleeping bag, lots of good food and, above all, a dedicated dog cargo bike - because in a typical dog trailer my viewing pleasures would be somewhat limited. After a lot of bargaining I had to give up on the tent



but, all considering, they did pretty well and my dad even built the cargo bike himself customised for me. So I decided to accept their offer and left with them!

We set off on the bikes from our home in Orta san Giulio (Italy) in mid July and we crossed the Swiss Alps to reach the beginning of our bicycle drawing, near Vesoul (France). From there we started tracing the bicycle shape, and so far we have cycled about 3800 km. I have to admit it has been great! I had never been on the road for so long, and I knew that my humans were slightly concerned that I could end up wishing for a more normal life, but the truth is that I was born to travel!

I particularly love the cargo bike: I am a very picky Lagotto, but I must admit that my dad nailed this one. I am now trusted so much that I even get to travel without a lead! There are still a few situations in which I can become too excited, for example when I see cats, and then I start tapping my feet furiously in a frenetic dance, but I never jump out. A minor annoyance is



that I have to share my cargo space with a few rolls of toilet paper, but apparently my humans cannot spare those. Naturally, I also enjoy plenty of trotting time next to the bikes, especially when we cycle on less-trafficked roads!

I must admit, I do get very tired in the evenings and I ask to go to bed immediately after my abundant dinner. I can then enjoy some alone sleeping time, with unmatched freedom to expand myself in whichever direction I like. It is when both my humans come to bed that the tent starts feeling a bit crammed... but over the weeks I have de-

vised a perfect strategy to gain more space. From my position in between their sleeping bags, I push my mum to one side of the tent with my paws and my dad towards the other side with my back. I thus manage to create a little rectangular space in the middle of the tent where I can fit just fine!

After just over 2 months of cycling we unfortunately had to stop, as my mum injured her knee and she had to rest and start physiotherapy, but I have heard that soon we will be back on the bike. Since we are going to travel in winter now, I demanded an upgrade of my coat. I am so excited to start again! If you want to read more about our adventure, please visit our website at [www.bicycleswill-savetheworld.com](http://www.bicycleswill-savetheworld.com) or follow us on Instagram or Facebook!

